

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This is intended to be a complete response to the Official Action mailed April 21, 2005, in which claims 1-9 were rejected.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The rejection of claims 1-9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) on Swisher 5,558,432 in view of Sherwood 3,477,704 should be withdrawn.

The Assignee of the present application made and sold drum mixers for several years using the structure shown in Swisher before the present inventors (long time engineer employees of Assignee) conceived the invention defined in claims 1-9. During that time, the intermediate section of the drums would become worn much before any other portion of the drum mixer, yet the entire drum would have to be replaced. Only after many of such instances was the present invention conceived, where only the high wear portion of the drum had to be replaced, resulting in substantial savings.

The Sherwood reference simply shows two drum sections secured in in-to-end relation. There is no teaching in Sherwood that would lead one skilled in the art to be able to replace a third, intermediate high wear section as set forth in the present claims.

The two part heat shield called for in dependent claims 8-9 are, of course, refinements of the basic combination set forth in the preceding claims, such

that these claims also should be allowed. The broad discussion of the known use of multiple sections does not lead one skilled in the art to the entire combination claimed.

The combination set forth in claims 1-9 is new, and the fact that it took several years to conceive the invention as set forth above, should overcome an opinion of obviousness arrived at after being exposed to the combination claimed.

The remaining cited art has been reviewed and does not teach the invention or add anything to the applied art.

Applicants' Attorney would be pleased to discuss the application by telephone, should the Examiner so desire. The Attorney's telephone number is (405) 607-8600.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, Applicants submit the application is now in a condition for allowance and request issuance of a Notice of Allowance thereof.

Respectfully submitted,



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